

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
October 23, 2006

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding  
Absent: Haddad, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2006 meeting was made by Ms. Blair and seconded by Mr. Hawkins. Mayor Paterson noted that a motion to move out of Executive Session was improperly included in the minutes. The minutes as corrected were passed.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in recognition of all troops serving here and abroad.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

None

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move Item #4, Presentation by Open Space Preservation Committee, as the next item on the agenda.  
Motion so passed.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to add the letter from the Charter Revision Commission dated October 18, 2006 as an item for discussion.  
Motion so passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Issues Regarding the UConn Landfill

Mr. Hawkins questioned the amount lead detected in some wells, as itemized on Page 19 of the interim monitoring report, noting that some of the levels were above the standards. Matt Hart, Town Manager, will investigate. Ms. Koehn requested that the staff review these reports and highlight the important points for the Council, noting what has changed since previous reports. Mr. Hart will ask Mr. Miller of the Eastern Highlands Health District to comment.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Town Manager outlined the corrective action taken by the University regarding the storm water-decanting incident. Council members questioned whether or not there were consequences to the contractor, JHA.

### 3. Community/Campus Relations and Birch Road Community Concerns

- Matt Hart, joined by Sergeant Cox, reported that the last couple of weekends have been quieter around campus. Police overtime, ING's hiring of local officers for weekend security patrols, grants for DUI checkpoints and working with UConn are all contributing to the decrease in activity as are colder weekends and more school work. The Council complimented the Sergeant, officers, EMTs, and firefighters for their efforts this fall. Mr. Paulhus clarified that when a call goes out for service both UConn Police and State Trooper Patrols respond. Mayor Paterson itemized the town's and University's efforts and urged the students to get involved.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### 4. Presentation by Open Space Preservation Committee

Jim Morrow, Chair of the Open Space Committee introduced the presenters and explained that the groups have been working on ways to implement the land preservation vision set forth in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Al Cyr, a member of the Agricultural Committee, outlined the reasons and ways the community can protect farmland including outright purchase, the purchase of development rights and working with the state. The Agricultural Committee is planning to provide workshops for landowners and do an educational mailing. They would like to be prepared for when an opportunity arises.

Stephen Lowrey, a member of the Open Space Preservation Committee, addressed the Council on the importance of protecting large forested tracts in town. The promotion of biodiversity is one of the main benefits of protecting these large interior tracts. The Open Space Preservation Committee is planning to encourage protection by sending educational mailings to identified owners and then sponsoring workshops explaining stewardship opportunities and grants that may be available.

Quentin Kessell, a member of the Open Space Committee and the Conservation Committee, spoke about the importance of greenway protection. Protection of these areas along the rivers helps protect not only the rivers but also the aquifer area below them.

Ken Feathers, a member of the Open Space Committee, commented on the need for connections between the new and existing parcels. He stated that these greenbelt areas link habitats for animals, insure a comprehensive network of trails and connect people to nature without the need for cars.

Vicki Wethrell, a member of the Open Space Committee, summarized the group's approach to the project. Up until now these committees have been working independently, but now they must begin to look for partners and additional sources of money. They also plan to work more closely with property owners.

The Council thanked the Committee for all their knowledge and enthusiasm, noting that the standing committees in Mansfield are one of our most valuable resources.

5. Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the Mansfield Firefighters Associations, Inc

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to authorize Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart to execute the proposed Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the Mansfield Firefighters Association, Inc, which agreement is effective retroactive to September 25, 2006 and which purpose is to support the provision of fire protection and emergency services within the Town of Mansfield.

Chief Dagon explained to the Council that the agreement before them is very similar to previous agreements. The agreement is for one year and consolidates the two volunteer departments into one department. Matt Hart, Town Manager, thanked the Chief and all those involved in this transition.

Motion passed with Ms. Blair abstaining.

6. Open Space Acquisition Grant for Vernon Property

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the following resolution.

RESOLVED, that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager of the Town of Mansfield, be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Mansfield a Grant Easement under the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to acquire permanent interest in land known as Vernon Property, OSWA-149 and to manage said land as open space land pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes. Motion so passed.

7. CT Highway Safety Program Project Application for 2006

Mr. Paulhus moved, and Ms. Blair seconded, effective October 23, 2006, to authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, to submit a grant application to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Division of Highway Safety, for \$10,000 to be dedicated to police overtime for D.U.I. and related motor vehicle enforcement, and to process any related grant paperwork. Motion so passed.

8. CT Highway Safety Program Project Application for FY 2006/2007 Expanded DUI Enforcement

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective October 23, 2006, authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, to submit a grant application to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Division of Highway Safety, for \$61,200 to be dedicated to police overtime for D.U.I. and related motor vehicle enforcement, and to process any related grant paperwork. Motion so passed.

## 9. Strategic Planning Project

The Town Manager updated the Council on the progress of the Strategic Planning Committee. He commented that the Committee would like Council approval to begin preparing a request for qualifications to hire a consultant/facilitator to assist with the coordination of the project.

By consensus the Council approved the request.

### 9a. Charter Revision Request for Information

Mayor Paterson opened the discussion asking members if they had any particular ideas or comments regarding the questions forwarded to the Council by the Charter Revision Commission.

Mr. Hawkins noted that the questions from the Commission refer not to recommendations from the Council but rather to issues that have been brought to the Council's attention by citizens. Members commented that a number of questions dealt with the role of the Mayor. It was agreed that while the role of the Mayor is ceremonial in many ways it behooves the town to have the title of Mayor as it engenders a higher level of respect from other organizations. Ms. Koehn said that she feels that the town needs a record of the policies that the Town Council enacts, a policy manual. Mr. Paulhus stated that he suggested the elimination of the position of constables, as it is strictly an honorary position with no function.

The joint meeting with the Charter Revision Commission will be held on October 24, 2006

## VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-

## VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

-

Mr. Paulhus reported the Public Safety Committee has met and the razor ribbon has been installed at the prison facility. A test was done of the phone system and 160 calls were made in 30 minutes. Mr. Paulhus also informed the Council that the Mansfield facility is currently "in overflow".

Ms. Redding reported that the Committee on Committees requested that the formalization of the Community/Campus Partnership be added to a future agenda.

## IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

-

## X. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

-

Attached

## XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

-

- XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 
- 10.Appointments to Eastern Highlands Health District Board of Directors
  - 11.Appointment to Mansfield Downtown Partnership
  - 12.R. Bourque re: Mansfield Community Center
  - 13.Charter Communications re: Charter Communications Public Access Department
  - 14.Department of the Army re: University of Connecticut Veterans Day Ceremony
  - 15.Q. Kessel re: Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee Meetings
  - 16.Mansfield Downtown Partnership Joint Board of Directors and Planning and Design Committee Meeting Agenda
  - 17.The Boston Globe UMass-Amherst, Community, Police Try to Put Lid on Party Life
  - 18.Tolland County Street & Road Map
  - 19.Fee Waiver Ordinance
  - 20.VNA East re: Visit Statistics

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move into Executive Session.  
Motion so passed.

Present: Blair, Clouette, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding  
Also Present: Matt Hart

Personnel Issues

- XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion so passed.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk